Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Sunday 12 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Monday 13 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Sunday 12 Mar 2023 at 02:06

Confidence: High for changeable conditions, lower for freezing levels later in outlook

Headline for Sunday 12 Mar 2023: Mainly cloudy, some patchy drizzle then heavier rain in afternoon and evening. Strong to gale southwest winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 12 Mar 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG	FOG				
Fog	Fog	Dull	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
20%	20%	20%	40%	80%	90%

Forecast for Sunday 12 Mar 2023

Weather: Freezing at first on summits, becoming mainly dry during morning. Mostly cloudy with hill fog though some sunny intervals developing in shelter. Then cloud thickening in afternoon with outbreaks of rain developing, heavy at times, lasting through the evening with hill fog becoming more extensive.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Mostly 10% or less, but 30% for a time mid morning to early afternoon, mainly over northeastern fells.

Low cloud and visibility: Plenty of low cloud, mainly above 450-600m but lifting to 800m for a time in morning and early afternoon, perhaps some breaks in shelter. Visibility away from cloud mostly good in morning but becoming moderate to poor in the rain and drizzle.

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Forecast for Sunday 12 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	43/50 W	31/37 SW	31/39 SW	40/50 SW	41/50 SW	33/41 S	35/45 S
600	36/48 W	28/36 SW	28/37 SW	30/40 SW	29/39 SW	24/34 S	29/42 S
300	11/37 W	10/28 SW	12/30 SW	9/29 SW	10/30 SW	6/21 S	11/31 S
Valley	10/31 W	11/27 SW	12/26 SW	8/25 SW	10/27 SW	6/19 S	11/26 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-7	2/-5	2/-5	3/-4	4/-3	4/-2	5/-2
600	3/-4	4/-2	4/-2	5/-1	5/-0	6/0	6/0
300	5/1	6/3	7/3	6/3	6/4	7/5	7/4
Valley	7/4	8/4	8/5	7/5	8/5	8/7	8/6
Freezing Level*	1200m	1300m	1200m	1700m	1800m	2000m	2400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A thaw of lying snow on Sunday.

Forecast for Monday 13 Mar 2023

Weather: Cloudy with further rain, heavy at times, turning to snow above 400m by evening then to low levels during the evening though it will be lighter by then. Becoming clearer and drier around midnight.

Maximum wind: Southwest 45 gusts 60mph easing 30 gusts 45mph in afternoon then veering north or northwest in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% or less lifting 80% by late evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Widespread cloud 300-500m, the bases slightly higher in the northeast, with moderate to poor visibility in rain underneath. Exposure to the lowest cloud bases changing with wind direction towards evening, with poor visibility in snow, but cloud will lift and break towards midnight.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 8 Celsius falling to Plus 4 towards evening and zero by mid to late evening.
At 800m: Plus 5 Celsius falling to Minus 1 by evening then Minus 4 by mid to late evening.
Freezing level: Above summits most of day, then falling quickly to 600m later in the afternoon then to low levels by mid to late evening.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

An overnight frost down to valley level gave way to a dry and cold day on the Lake District fells. Cloud cover rapidly increased this afternoon and snow and then rain are forecast overnight as the freezing level rapidly rises and the weather deteriorates.

The snow cover is very varied. Many south facing slopes have thawed up towards summit level in the sun. Other areas have been scoured back to bare ground by the wind but where the snow is lying on generally westerly aspects it is still soft and deep and extends down to valley level. For example the western flanks of Catstycam were buried under knee to thigh deep snow making for very heavy going. Where the snow has been compressed under walkers feet on popular routes it is now becoming icy and slippery

The snow pack was being redistributed around the fells by a freshening SE wind as the day progressed and fresh snow was beginning to settle down to valley level at dusk.

Striding and Swirral Edges are in full winter condition and are the domain of experienced winter walkers with the correct equipment. Carrying crampons and an ice axe are essential to safely deal with the huge variety of conditions that could be encountered on any exposed and technical ground. Microspikes and trekking poles are also strongly recommended for anyone venturing above the snow line on even the easiest paths

Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells under their current winter cloak. There is a rapid thaw forecast for the next 48hrs before a welcome return to colder conditions.

Issued at: 02:06 on Sun 12 Mar 2023

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